

green berets, are today deployed throughout the world working side-by-side with indigenous forces to combat global terrorism. America has such a capability because of this one man's vision and undaunted drive for excellence.

Mr. Speaker, our Special Operations Forces are among the best warriors this country has ever produced, and Colonel Aaron Bank stood at the forefront of that group. I am sure my fellow Members will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family, and in recognizing this great American for the service he offered his country. He was truly the quiet professional.

#### COMMEMORATING YOM HASHOAH

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2004*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, which memorializes the six million Jews murdered during World War II.

I join my colleagues in mourning the innocent lives and vibrant communities destroyed by Nazis while the world shamefully stood by, and call upon all of us to redouble our efforts to combat resurgent anti-Semitism and intolerance around the world.

As we observe the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, when a brave cadre of fighters battled a Nazi siege to liquidate the community's last remaining Jews, we must also pay tribute to survivors who continue today to battle the traumatic horrors of their past.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Café Europa, a social service and Holocaust survivors advocacy group of Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles, which marked its 16th anniversary this week in a Yom HaShoah ceremony at Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Hollywood Hills.

Café Europa, like other groups across the country, has played a key role in making sure that Holocaust survivors have the social support and resources they need to overcome their haunting suffering and live out their years in peace.

We all have a responsibility to make sure the atrocities they witnessed are not forgotten and never again repeated. While we have come very far in combating Holocaust denial and racial hatred against Jews, new and difficult challenges unfortunately remain ahead.

There is a terrible climate of anti-Semitism growing worldwide. In European and Arab countries, there has been a dramatic rise of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial fomenting violent attacks against Jews and exacerbating tensions in the Middle East. It is incumbent upon the United States to speak out, raise awareness, and call for action.

While the State Department annual country reports on human rights and religious freedom have attempted to track anti-Semitism the results have been woefully inadequate. For example, the 2003 State Department Country Report on the United Arab Emirates mistakenly characterizes the closure of the Zayed Centre for Coordination and Follow-up as a form of censorship instead of commending the UAE government for taking action to shut

down an institution widely criticized for promoting vehemently anti-Semitic symposia, speakers, and materials.

At a time when blood libels, canards like the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, and other anti-Semitic conspiracy theories are being broadcast on Arabic television channels, the United States must be more vigilant in its stance on this issue. We cannot allow governments afraid or unwilling to confront the blight of anti-Semitism to turn a blind eye and permit defamation to be accepted as freedom of speech.

Today, we must resound the words "never again" to the community of nations whose failure to take action against hatred and incitement against Jews quickly turned to devastation and murder a mere half century ago.

#### REMEMBER YOM HASHOAH

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2004*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join people around the world to remember Yom HaShoah. Remembrance of victims of the Holocaust is an indispensable and enduring task. We all must honor and identify with the victims.

The most horrifying extent of anti-Semitism took place during the Nazi and Fascist reign in Europe. Jewish people were beaten, discriminated, and deported to concentration camps where they had to suffer from hard labor and medical experiments or were executed in gas chambers. This most horrible form of anti-Semitism took the lives of more than six million people, and the Jewish fate must never be forgotten. Indeed, we must ensure that the seeds of anti-Semitism are never sown again in Europe or elsewhere in the world.

And although we are currently in the sixth decade after the end of the Holocaust, the fight against anti-Semitism is far from over. Quite the contrary, new hatred against Jews can be witnessed in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Nazi slogans are shouted in the streets of Germany, synagogues are burnt, and Jews are beaten up. This kind of hatred has already brought catastrophe to the Jewish people. Remembrance of the past is therefore essential as it helps focus attention on current and future threats to the Jewish people.

Remembrance must, however, go beyond intellectual insight and historical facts and should also include an emotional understanding, as far as this is possible. Only then are people ready to develop an attitude of zero-tolerance against anti-Semitism and discrimination in general.

#### NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today in the great rotunda of the Capitol Building, the annual Days of Remembrance ceremony was held to remind us of the victims of the Holocaust and again commit ourselves that such a

horror shall never again take place. It was my great privilege to join other Members of Congress and leaders in lighting one of the six candles in memory of the six million victims of the Holocaust.

The focus of today's commemoration was particularly meaningful for me, Mr. Speaker, because this year marks the 60th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary. In March of 1944, Nazi German troops occupied Hungary. Hungary had been an ally of Hitler, but as Germany began to fall back before the advancing Soviet army, the German high command was uncertain about Hungary's loyalty. Germany occupied Hungary, established a puppet regime in Budapest, and Adolf Eichmann was sent to Hungary to oversee the elimination of Hungary's entire Jewish population.

As the Germans began to move against Hungary's population, the United States took action to help preserve the Jewish population. The U.S. War Refugee Board was established in January 1944. On March 25, 1944—less than a week after German troops occupied Hungary—President Franklin D. Roosevelt called for the rescue of the Jewish population in Hungary: "In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving people rally to this righteous undertaking."

Mr. Speaker, at the request and through the involvement of the U.S. War Refugee Board, Swedish businessman Raoul Wallenberg was given diplomatic status and sent by his government to Budapest. He and his Swedish colleagues, including Per Anger, helped protect tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from being deported to Auschwitz by distributing protective Swedish passports or travel papers. With funds provided by the United States he also rented apartment blocks and declared them protected Swedish diplomatic enclaves, and he was able to protect numerous Jews in these buildings.

Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat, also issued certificates of emigration that placed thousands of Jews in Budapest under Swiss protection. Italian businessman Giorgio Perlasca, posing as a Spanish diplomat, issued forged Spanish visas and established under his "authority" safe houses, including one for Jewish children. Many other diplomats, including the Portuguese diplomat Branquinho, were active in saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, I was one of those fortunate individuals who were able to find refuge in one of the Wallenberg safe houses after I successfully escaped from a forced labor camp north of Budapest. Most of the members of my family and a large portion of my wife Annette's family were killed during that dark period.

When Soviet military forces liberated Budapest in January and February 1945, more than 100,000 Jews were still alive in the city because of the efforts of Wallenberg, Lutz, Perlasca, and other diplomats and individuals. There are many individuals alive today—as well as our children and grandchildren—because of the work of these individuals and the efforts of the United States War Refugee Board.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 60th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary, I urge my colleagues to join me in this solemn remembrance. At the same time, I urge all of us to recommit ourselves to fighting against the evils that led to the Holocaust—anti-Semitism, racism, bigotry, and intolerance. Unfortunately,